

ADMINISTRATIVE - INTERNAL USE ONLY

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16 January 1987

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Information Technology

FROM: Allen R. Elkins
Director of Finance

SUBJECT: ADP Support to DA Offices

REFERENCE: Your memorandum dated 2 Jan 1987; same subject

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1. The decentralization proposed in Reference is a significant step forward and I agree that it will be an important achievement. Some aspects of the proposal need clarification or modification. These are outlined below:

Space - Successful implementation of decentralized ADP support to customer offices will require revisions to current space arrangements and to planned space allocations in the new Headquarters building. It is important that the ADP support be co-located with the users to ensure development of responsive systems. For the near term there is a possibility we can acquire the necessary space within Key Building when FBIS moves [redacted] circa June 1987. We should begin work on this with the Office of Logistics as soon as possible to realign space as required.

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Incorporation of all DA ADP specialist personnel into the MZ Career Service - This proposal needs further refinement; for example, the estimated Office of Finance customer staff ADP support is listed at 45 in the attachment to Reference. However, all of these employees have dual hats as budget and finance experts or accountants with strong systems backgrounds as part of the tools of the trade. These Office of Finance careerists are not ADP specialists that would have (nor do they desire) broad career paths as MZ careerists. From time to time, as has happened recently, a Finance careerist with strong systems skills may want to leave Finance related work for computer specialist work in scientific, intelligence, or other administrative applications of OIT. In these cases, a switch from MF to MZ is appropriate and can be arranged.

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It should be noted that this is a two-way street. In most cases, the MF employees with strong ADP skills use these talents in a rounded career in financial systems work, line budget and finance jobs and audit assignments both at Headquarters and overseas and are not candidates for "incorporation" into the MZ service.

The manager of the team would be an OIT careerist - I agree with the concept that the reassigned OIT personnel would form the nucleus of the user office ADP component. The personnel would become part of this component, which in the case of the Office of Finance is the existing Financial Systems Division headed by [redacted] While the MZ careerist will be slotted within the central component (FSD), I do see those responsible for maintenance and enhancement of on-going systems, i.e. payroll, residing within the functional division and receiving appropriate tasking from the respective division chiefs. I propose that a senior OIT careerist be assigned as Deputy Chief of Financial Systems Division at this time since [redacted] is fully qualified for the Division Chief position. This present arrangement of [redacted] remaining as Division Chief would not preclude the assignment of an OIT Careerist as Chief, Financial Systems Division in the future.

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Implementation - I agree that some centralized resources must be applied to the Corporate Data Program and the foreign [redacted] systems development and support efforts by OIT to avoid incompatibility and redundancy. However, decentralized but coordinated development of user segments such as our Station Accounting and Reporting System (STARS) and Payroll Automated Inquiry Database (PAIDS) project is essential to orderly and responsive improvement. The proper mix of central control and decentralized applications can be determined in our discussions of the specifics of your proposal.

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2. The comments above do not seriously detract from the merit of your proposal. I too am excited about your realignment and believe that decentralization of ADP systems development and support in the DA will be an important improvement. I am prepared to discuss specifics on the transfer of resources as soon as we have the go-ahead.

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cc: Deputy Director for Administration

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